



Department of Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 September 2008

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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- Reuters reports that Washington Mutual Inc. was closed by the U.S. government in the largest failure of a U.S. bank. Its banking assets were sold to JPMorgan Chase for \$1.9 billion. (See item [16](#))
- According to the Associated Press, two laptop computers and other equipment were stolen from a federal center in New Haven, Connecticut, that processes applications for a program that provides identification cards to workers with access to seaports. (See item [18](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 25, Register* – (International) **World's electrical grids open to attack.** A serious vulnerability has been found in yet another computerized control system that runs some of the world's most critical infrastructure, this time in a product sold by a vendor known as the ABB Group. According to researchers from C4 — a firm specializing in the security of SCADA, or Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition, systems — ABB's Process Communication Unit 400 suffers from a critical buffer overflow bug. "The vulnerability was exploited by C4 to verify it can be used for arbitrary code execution by an unauthorized attacker," a researcher wrote in an advisory published on Thursday. "In addition, an attacker can use his control over the FEP server

to insert a generic electric grid malware...in order to cause harm to the grid.” The vulnerable software controls critical national infrastructure, including electrical grids. The vulnerability affects versions 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6, and possibly others, the C4 advisory warns. ABB has issued a patch for the bug.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/09/25/abb_critical_bug/

2. *September 25, Reuters* – (National) **Kinder resumes some Texas oil terminal operations.** Kinder Morgan Energy Partners has resumed some operations at its oil products terminal in Pasadena, Texas, after a fire shut the facility on Tuesday, the company said Thursday in a press release. “By resuming operations, Kinder Morgan is able again to supply product from its Pasadena tanks to several major pipelines including Colonial and Explorer,” the release said. The Pasadena oil terminal, a large facility south of Houston with around 15 million barrels of gasoline and oil products storage capacity, was damaged by a fire late Tuesday in one of its manifolds where pipelines interconnect. The fire was extinguished on Wednesday morning. Kinder Morgan said it is still investigating the cause of the blaze. During the shutdown of the Pasadena oil terminal, both Colonial and Explorer pipelines drew product from other origin points on the Gulf Coast, company representatives said.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2552310620080925?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>
3. *September 25, Reuters* – (National) **Enbridge lifts force majeure on two Gulf gas lines.** Enbridge Inc.’s U.S. unit said it lifted force majeure effective late Thursday on its Manta Ray offshore gathering system in the Gulf of Mexico and on its Nautilus pipeline following outages in the wake of Hurricane Ike. The company’s Garden Banks system remained shut in, but was ready to return to service once downstream pipelines and processing plants become available, an earlier posting said. The Enbridge Offshore pipeline system and Stingray pipeline remained under force majeure with no estimate on their return to service.
Source:
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2550904220080925>
4. *September 25, Reuters* – (Pennsylvania) **PPL Pa. Montour 1 coal unit back in service.** PPL Corp.’s Unit 1 at the coal-fired power plant in Montour, Pennsylvania, is back on line and should be operating near full power by the end of September, a spokesman for the company said Thursday. On August 5, PPL shut the unit after a portion of the wooden frame containing a system of piping and other equipment that delivers hot water to the cooling tower collapsed. The company decided to replace the wooden structure — something it had already planned to do during maintenance scheduled for 2011. During replacement, PPL plans to operate the unit with temporary portable equipment that can perform the same function as the damaged cooling tower. The company hopes to complete the installation of the permanent cooling structure in December. The spokesman said the company inspected Unit 2 but did not find any problems with its wooden cooling structure. He said PPL would replace the wooden structure at Unit 2 in

the future when the unit shuts for planned maintenance.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2553156520080925?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *September 26, WZZM 13 Grand Rapids* – (Michigan) **Chemical leak leads to Grand Haven evacuation.** The superintendent of the Grand Haven, Michigan, Waste Water Treatment plant says it was just a small leak of sulfur dioxide, but still potentially dangerous. The leak discovered in a spare one ton tank of sulfur dioxide led to the evacuation of five surrounding blocks Thursday evening. Sulfur dioxide is one of the chemicals used in the waste water purification process. “It’s toxic and certainly an irritant to the lungs and chest,” says the plant superintendent. “In high enough concentrations it could be fatal.” It took more than 3 hours for police to say the danger was over and everyone could go back home.
Source: http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news_story.aspx?storyid=99090&catid=1
6. *September 26, KRIS 6 Corpus Christi* – (Texas) **Chemical container washes up on Mustang Island.** A large chemical container washed ashore on Mustang Island Thursday evening, and firefighters are treating it as a threat. The container found is called a chemical tote, and according to the label, it was at one time carrying hydrochloric acid. Firefighters notified the Coast Guard about the container and made sure no one got close enough to be exposed to the chemicals or any dangerous gases. In 2005, hazardous materials crews were called out to dispose of the containers while wearing white suits and gloves. At that time, beachgoers were tipping chemical containers upright from Hurricane Rita. In some cases, people were hauling them away if they found them before the Coast Guard did. “All we’re doing is cordoning off the area to keep people away in case anything escapes from the tank. Right now, everything is contained within the tank,” a Corpus Christi Firefighter captain said.
Source: http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9077325&nav=menu192_12_21_2
7. *September 26, Salem News* – (Oregon) **Pols: Chemical plant bill a priority.** With the two-year anniversary of the Dan-versport blast fast approaching, a bill to oversee chemical plants statewide is gaining steam on Beacon Hill, a state representative said. The bill would create an office of experts to oversee chemical processors so local fire departments can be better informed during safety inspections. The blast two years ago cost, by some estimates, \$28 million to \$30 million in damage. Fortunately, no one was killed. The bill calls for the State Fire Marshal’s Office to write regulations on safety inspections of chemical plants. The regulations call for plants to get new certificates from the state, with the fee for such certificates not yet determined. “It is imperative that we learn from this event and implement change so that other neighborhoods are safe,” said a letter the group Safe Area for Everyone sent to the House Committee on Ways and Means chairman in July.
Source: http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local_story_269233734.html

8. *September 24, WALB 10 Albany* – (Georgia) **EPA fines Valdosta company.** A Valdosta pesticide company has been fined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for improper labeling of its chemicals. Dupont Company and Griffin LLC, Dupont's pesticide production facility in Valdosta, have been ordered to pay \$877, 500. Two of their products, cotton and tobacco pesticides, were found to have higher concentrations of ethephon than allowed by the EPA. The EPA also says the company imported the ingredient from a non-approved facility in China. Ethephon is an ingredient used help fruit mature more quickly. "If you get to much of it, it's probably not that great of a risk but you do have a great issue of having things properly labeled so when we buy things we know what we're going," says a prominent cotton and tobacco grower.
Source: http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=9067869&nav=menu37_2

9. *September 24, Vocus and PR Web* – (National) **New federal procedures safeguard chemical security information.** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has taken measures to protect Americans from terrorist attacks at facilities across the country that store or utilize dangerous chemicals. These measures, called Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards regulations, require facilities to provide DHS an inventory of certain chemicals that they have on their sites, perform detailed security vulnerability assessments, and follow up with site security plans that will be subject to strict DHS audits. All of this work generates volumes of sensitive information that details facility weaknesses and the possible catastrophic events that could result from terrorist attacks. When this information is collected (known as Chemical-terrorism Vulnerability Information, or CVI) strict measures are required in order to prevent its release to unauthorized personnel, the public, or an adversary. However, the regulation states that CVI is protected from the Freedom of Information Act to prevent its release outside the facility.
Source: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/chemicalcompanies/Anti-Terrorism/prweb1380544.htm>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

10. *September 25, Associated Press* – (National) **Nuclear waste piles up at hospitals.** Tubes, capsules, and pellets of used radioactive material are piling up in the basements and locked closets of hospitals and research installations around the country, stoking fears they could get lost or stolen by terrorists and turned into dirty bombs. For years, truckloads of low-level nuclear waste from most of the U.S. were taken to a rural South Carolina landfill. But a South Carolina law that took effect July 1 ended nearly all disposal of radioactive material at the landfill, leaving 36 states with no place to throw out some of the stuff. So labs, universities, hospitals, and manufacturers are storing more and more of it on their own property. "Instead of safely secured in one place, it's stored in thousands of places in urban locations all over the United States," said a nuclear waste consultant. State and federal authorities say the waste is being monitored, but they acknowledge that it is difficult to track and is inspected as little as once every

five years. Government documents and dozens of Associated Press interviews with nuclear waste generators, experts, watchdogs, and officials show that thousands of these small radioactive items have already been lost, and that worries are growing. Most medical waste can simply be stored until its radioactivity subsides within a few years, then safely thrown out with the regular trash. “I don’t think we’re yet in crisis, but certainly there’s information out there to suggest we may be closer to that than is comfortable for me,” said a commissioner with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jwdsBEsSY3yYEj7p1Z7FFsD75gCQD93DUCR80>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

11. *September 26, Army Times* – (National) **First C-27s delivered to Pentagon.** The first C-27J Spartan cargo aircraft was delivered to the Pentagon on Thursday, on time and on budget, according to officials at L-3 Communications, the lead contractor on the Joint Cargo Aircraft contract. The \$2 billion contract, awarded in June 2007, includes 54 twin-engine turboprop light cargo planes for the Army and 24 for the Air Force. Six planes for the Army have now been ordered, with Air Force orders expected to begin in 2010. The first 14 for the Army will be produced by Alenia, a unit of Italy’s Finmeccanica, in Turin, Italy. A formal delivery ceremony will be held in October at L-3’s Waco, Texas, facility, where the Italian-built planes are modified and tested. The C-27J will replace the Army’s C-23 Sherpas and portions of the C-12 and C-26 fleets. For the Air Force, the mid-range multifunctional plane will extend the intra-theater lift fleet, capable of handling logistical re-supply, medical evacuations, troop movement, airdrop operations, humanitarian assistance, and homeland security missions.

Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/09/defense_JCAdelivered_092508/

12. *September 26, Military.com* – (National) **Army to test air burst weapon for soldiers.** After nearly a decade in the shadows – with billions spent on earlier versions long since abandoned – the Army is moving quickly to field a revolutionary new weapon to soldiers a lot sooner than anyone had ever imagined. It is a weapon that can take out a bad guy behind a wall, beyond a hill or below a trench, and do it more accurately and with less collateral damage than anything on the battlefield today, officials say. It is called the XM25 Individual Air Burst Weapon, and by next month the service will have three prototypes of the precision-guided 25mm rifle ready for testing. Born of the much-maligned and highly-controversial Objective Individual Combat Weapon – a 1990s program that sought a “leap ahead” battle rifle that combined a counter-defilade weapon with a carbine – the XM25 only recently gained new momentum after the Army formalized a requirement and released a contract in June for a series of test weapons. Infantry weapons to date have permitted fighters to shoot at or through an obstacle concealing enemy threats, but the Army for years has been trying to come up with a weapon to engage targets behind barriers without resorting to mortars, rockets, or grenades – all of which risk collateral damage. After fits and starts using a 20mm rifle

housed in a bulky, overweight, complicated shell, technology finally caught up to shave the XM25 from 21 pounds to a little more than 12 pounds. If the XM25 does what its developers hope, it will be able to fire an air-bursting round at a target from 16 meters away out to 600 meters with a highly accurate, 360-degree explosive radius.

Source: <http://www.military.com/news/article/army-to-test-air-burst-weapon-for-joes.html>

13. *September 26, Associated Press* – (National) **GAO rejects claim Army botched body armor tests.** The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has rejected a claim that testing of improved body armor for U.S. forces was flawed, clearing the way for the Army to get the stalled \$1 billion project moving again. Had the GAO agreed with a contract protest filed in July by ArmorWorks, the program to buy sturdier armor could have been delayed for months. That would have been bad news for the Army, which has been criticized for moving too slowly to provide troops in Iraq and Afghanistan with the best battlefield gear. ArmorWorks accused the Army of not following accepted testing standards after the company's protective plates failed when armor-piercing rounds were fired at them. Once a protest is filed with the GAO, work on a contract is put on hold until the complaint is resolved.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gqM3OA_CQQhpdZX8Du6mkCzdILSgD93EGB881

14. *September 25, Reuters* – (National) **Bailout won't "gut" defense budget: Navy.** A massive bailout for Wall Street will not lead to a "gutting" of the U.S. defense budget, but the U.S. military will come under increasing pressure to review big weapons programs and see if they are really needed, the Navy's top uniformed officer said on Thursday. The Chief of Naval Operations said there had not yet been much discussion within the Pentagon about the impact of the financial crisis, and it would fall to the new administration to make decisions about future defense budgets. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) this year reported cost overruns on the Pentagon's 95 largest weapons programs amounted to \$295 billion over their original program estimates, raising their overall price tag to \$1.6 trillion.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080926/us_nm/us_financial_bailout_defense;_ylt=Ak1VtM1i2sueyO5V4pecBL6s0NUE

15. *September 24, Associated Press* – (California) **Pentagon contest sparks ideas for better batteries.** The final phase of a high-stakes military contest began this week in the California desert as teams tested battery systems designed to be powerful enough to sustain soldiers' energy needs but light enough for them to wear on their vests. The million-dollar contest aims to relieve troops who use battery-powered equipment such as night-vision devices and GPS units. The current batteries add as much as 20 pounds to soldiers' loads. The Defense Department hopes to provide lighter batteries that pack a stronger punch, allowing soldiers to carry more equipment. To encourage the development of such power systems the military launched the Wearable Power Prize competition, which culminates with testing and judging within the next two weeks.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D93DBMP00.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

16. *September 26, Reuters* – (National) **WaMu is largest U.S. bank failure.** Washington Mutual Inc. was closed by the U.S. Government in by far the largest failure of a U.S. bank, and its banking assets were sold to JPMorgan Chase for \$1.9 billion. Washington Mutual is the largest U.S. savings and loan and was shut by the Federal Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS). The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) was named receiver. This followed \$16.7 billion of deposit outflows at the Seattle-based thrift since September 15, OTS said. The FDIC chairman said the bailout happened on Thursday night because of media leaks and to calm customers. Customers should expect business as usual on Friday, and all depositors are fully protected, the FDIC said. It vaults JPMorgan past Bank of America to become the nation's second-largest bank, with \$2.04 trillion of assets, just behind Citigroup. Bank of America will go to number one once it completes its planned purchase of Merrill Lynch. FDIC said the acquisition does not cover claims of Washington Mutual equity, senior debt, and subordinated debt holders. It also said the transaction will not affect its roughly \$45.2 billion deposit insurance fund.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE48P05I20080926?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

17. *September 26, Reuters* – (National) **Investor in Lehman preferred stock sues for fraud.** An asset manager has sued a group of Wall Street firms that underwrote a \$1.9 billion Lehman Brothers preferred stock offering in February, accusing them of misleading investors about Lehman's financial health. The lawsuit contends that the prospectus issued ahead of the offering was false and misleading because it did not reveal Lehman's significant exposure to the subprime mortgage market and also did not disclose that Lehman was in desperate need of capital because of deteriorating market conditions and rapidly falling values of its assets. Lehman itself was not named as a defendant in the lawsuit because it is in bankruptcy protection, though its chairman and chief executive and several other Lehman directors were named as individual defendants. The lawsuit, filed on Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan by institutional investors Fogel Capital Management, contends that investors who bought the preferred stock were misled about the risks of investing in Lehman. The suit seeks class-action status. Defendants include subsidiaries of Bank of America, Citigroup, Merrill Lynch, and several other firms that underwrote the offering, the lawsuit said. A Lehman spokesman said that the firm believed the lawsuit was without merit and "we will defend against it vigorously."

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/bankingFinancial/idUSN2553310420080926>

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Transportation Sector

18. *September 25, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **FBI investigates break-in at ID card contractor.** Two laptop computers and other equipment were taken from a federal center in New Haven, Connecticut, that processes applications for a program that provides identification cards to workers with access to seaports, federal officials said. Authorities say the computers, a camera, and biometrics collection equipment were taken from the Grand Avenue site over the weekend. The FBI is assessing whether there was a threat to national security, said a spokesman. A spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said the stolen laptops do not pose a security risk. He says data is wiped clean daily and is encrypted, so it is not accessible to thieves. A TSA spokesman said one laptop was used for enrollment information and the other computer was used for administrative purposes and is password protected with no personal identifying information.
Source: <http://www.hartfordbusiness.com/news6702.html>
19. *September 25, New York Times* – (New York) **To Pilots, Shea is less ballpark than landmark.** For 44 years, the procession of planes from nearby La Guardia Airport has contributed to an unusual ballpark soundtrack at Shea Stadium, the roar of jet engines a thousand feet above. La Guardia is one of the few airports in the country where pilots use land markers instead of instruments to guide their landings, along with Seattle (a shopping mall) and Washington (a river). Shea Stadium, which from the sky looks like a blue circle with a green center, is a primary runway guidepost. For one of the more common landing routes, pilots are instructed to follow the Long Island Expressway until they arrive at the eastern side of the stadium, at which point they bank the plane left around the outfield wall and head straight for Runway 31. The expressway visual approach, used for about a quarter of commercial landings, shortens trips for planes approaching from the south, saving pilots from having to circle over the Long Island Sound before making a straight approach using instruments. The landing is done without instruments only when visibility is high.
Source:
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/26/sports/baseball/26pilots.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin
20. *September 25, Associated Press* – (California) **Bomb squad checks suspicious container at LA port.** A Los Angeles police bomb squad checked a suspicious cargo container at the Port of Los Angeles, where one of the port's eight terminals had been closed. The Port spokeswoman said an x-ray scanner detected the suspicious container Thursday. She said port police inspected the container to figure out what the scanner detected. The scanner was operated by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
Source:
http://www.pe.com/ap_news/California/CA_Port_Suspicious_Container_360929C.shtml
21. *September 24, Associated Press* – (California) **California outlaws text messaging while driving.** The California governor has signed a law making it illegal to read or

send text messages while driving in California. The governor says the law he signed Wednesday encourages drivers to keep their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road. California motorists using cell phones have been required to use hands-free devices since July, and drivers under age 18 cannot use any electronic devices. Seven other states and the District of Columbia ban text-messaging or the use of hand-held phones while driving, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/09/24/california-outlaws-text-m_n_129105.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

22. *September 25, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Suspicious letter deemed safe at government agency.** Authorities say a suspicious letter opened in a mailroom at the Department of Veterans Affairs in downtown Washington, D.C., did not pose a danger to workers. The Assistant D.C. Fire Chief told the Washington Post the letter contained a “written threat” and “a fair amount of powder.” That led to a quarantine of 24 mailroom workers Thursday while the letter was tested for any traces of anthrax. A D.C. fire department spokesman said a hazardous materials team conducted environmental testing of the area, but nothing harmful was found. More than a dozen emergency vehicles responded to the building, which is located about a block from the White House.

Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1606699~Suspicious_letter_deemed_safe_at_government_agency.html

23. *September 25, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (National) **U.S. Postal Service: Progress made toward implementing GAO’s recommendations to strengthen network realignment planning and accountability and improve communication.** Major changes affecting the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) — including declining mail volumes, increasing operating expenses such as rising fuel costs, and a more competitive marketplace — have reinforced the need for USPS to increase efficiency and reduce expenses in its mail processing network. This network includes over 600 facilities that sort mail and prepare it for transportation and delivery. First-Class Mail provides USPS with high revenue per piece and has traditionally helped USPS cover its overhead costs. However, First-Class Mail volumes have been declining since 2001 and this downward trend is expected to continue. Furthermore, while First-Class Mail volumes have been declining, worksharing by mailers has increased. As worksharing has increased, ever-larger volumes of mail have bypassed most of USPS’s processing activities, creating excess network capacity. To address these trends affecting its mail processing network, USPS has developed several initiatives to reduce costs and increase efficiency. In 2005 and 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued reports that evaluated USPS’ network realignment plans and included recommendations for improvement. USPS has taken steps to address GAO’s prior recommendations to strengthen planning and accountability for its network realignment efforts, which are important as USPS moves from planning to implementing its network realignment initiatives.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-08-1134R>

Agriculture and Food Sector

24. *September 26, Detroit Free Press* – (Michigan) **E. coli hits 24 in state.** A three-week outbreak of E. coli food poisoning has sickened at least 24 people statewide, mostly in southeast Michigan, state health officials said Thursday. The first reported cases were at Michigan State University (MSU) last week. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also has confirmed cases in Ohio, Illinois, and Oregon traced to the same E. coli strain affecting Michigan. The culprit food source is still unknown. No deaths have been reported. The outbreak likely started at MSU, where seven cases were confirmed, and at Lenawee County Jail, with five cases. Two cases were reported in Kent County. Source: <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080926/NEWS06/809260326/1008>
25. *September 26, Minot Daily News* – (National) **Country of Origin Labeling mandatory starting Oct. 1.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is requiring a Country of Origin Label, known as COOL, to be put on items sold in retail settings. COOL became law as part of the 2002 Farm Bill, but implementation was delayed twice due to congressional actions for all products except wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish, which went into effect in April 2005. The 2008 Farm Bill expanded the list of covered items to include ground meats, chicken, goat meat, macadamia nuts, pecans, and ginseng in addition to beef, lamb, fish, pork, peanuts, and fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables. The food service industry, such as fast food, cafeterias, and restaurants, are exempt from the new law as well as the ingredients in processed foods. Items that have been cooked, boiled, cured, smoked, or undergone other transformations “that results in a change in the character of the covered commodity” would be exempt according to an interim final rule document released by the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service department. The bill remains a contentious issue, and the original plans permitted a year of market analysis before all of the laws were to be written; but the U.S. agriculture secretary has hinted that the finalization will take place by the end of the Bush administration. Source: <http://www.minotdailynews.com/page/content.detail/id/519356.html>
26. *September 25, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Livestock disease plan focuses on Yellowstone area.** Cattle ranchers near Yellowstone National Park would have to test their entire herds for brucellosis and vaccinate them against the disease, under a plan offered by state livestock officials. The plan, still in draft form, is required for Montana to regain its federal brucellosis-free status. The state lost that status in September following infections on two ranches within the past two years. Brucellosis causes cows to abort their calves. Eradicated elsewhere, it remains a problem in the Yellowstone area because of the disease’s prevalence in wildlife. The Department of Livestock plan calls for less stringent testing and vaccination requirements outside the Yellowstone area. It also encourages ranchers to keep their livestock separate from elk. Source: <http://www.kxmc.com/News/279287.asp>

Water Sector

27. *September 26, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Bacteria found in Downey's water supply.** City officials say residents of Downey, California, should boil tap water after coliform bacteria was found in the city supplies. The bacteria was discovered Tuesday, and a boil-water order was issued late Thursday. The order will last at least three days while water supplies are hyperchlorinated and the lines where the bacteria was found are flushed. It was not immediately known what the source of the bacteria was.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-downey27-2008sep27,0,4126419.story>

28. *September 25, National Aeronautics and Space Administration* – (National) **NASA site uses advanced in-situ chemical oxidation for successful subsurface soil and groundwater remediation.** The National Aeronautics & Space Administration's (NASA) Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, has undertaken aggressive groundwater and soil remediation to treat an area of on-site petroleum hydrocarbon contamination. The Launch Equipment Shop, part of NASA's Vehicle Assembly Building complex, has conducted highly specialized manufacturing, fabrication, and assembly work for the space program since the early 1960s. Leaks from a 4,000-gallon underground fuel oil tank, subsequently decommissioned and removed, led to notable contamination of soil and groundwater, including a layer of light non-aqueous phase liquid up to 15 inches thick, with total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbon levels as high as 20,000 parts per million (ppm) in soil and 42 ppm in groundwater. The tank and 178 tons of readily accessible contaminated soil were excavated and properly disposed of early on, but other harder-to-reach contaminated soils had to be left in place beneath and near building foundations, where essential underground utilities were located. After examining alternative remediation technologies, in-situ chemical oxidation (the application into the subsurface of highly reactive chemicals, which chemically oxidize and destroy contaminants on contact) was chosen as a more cost-effective means of site remediation.

Source: <http://www.chemicalonline.com/article.mvc/NASA-Site-Uses-Advanced-In-Situ-Chemical-0001>

29. *September 25, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* – (National) **Committee recommends revisions to rule to control microbial drinking water contamination.** Members of the Total Coliform Rule/Distribution System Advisory Committee recently signed an agreement in principle that recommends revisions to the 1989 Total Coliform Rule, as well as research and information collection needed to better understand potential public health impacts from conditions in the distribution system and control microbial drinking water contamination. "This is a roadmap for strengthening safeguards against harmful bacteria in distribution lines and ensuring America's water remains among the safest in the world," said the Environmental Protection Agency's assistant administrator for water. The revisions to the rule will require systems with positive total coliform and/or E. coli monitoring results to conduct an assessment to identify whether a sanitary defect is present and to correct defects found.

Source:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/9a78b13b2821d1c0852574cf004d5bce?OpenDocument>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

30. *September 25, Washington Post* – (National) **86% of Americans told to get flu shot.** A record-setting amount of influenza vaccine is available this fall for a record-setting number of people being advised to get it. That was the message yesterday from officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and several private organizations, who convened in Washington to urge Americans to get flu shots. For the first time, the federal government is recommending this year that children 5 to 18 years old get vaccinated, along with the previously targeted group of 6 months to 5 years. That will add about 30 million children to the number advised to get the shots. Manufacturers will make about 145 million doses. While the number of people targeted is substantially higher — 261 million — not everyone will choose to or be able to get vaccinated.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/24/AR2008092403763.html?hpid=moreheadlines&sid=ST2008092500792&s_pos&s_pos

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Government Facilities Sector

31. *September 26, Idaho Statesman* – (Idaho) **Bomb threat leads to Ada County Courthouse evacuation.** A bomb threat led to the evacuation of the Ada County, Idaho, Courthouse for about two hours Thursday, but investigators found no explosive devices inside. Four phone threats were called into the courthouse. Officials and Ada County dispatchers arrived around 9:15 a.m. Officials evacuated the building, but allowed people back in about 11:30 a.m. after it was searched. Ada County sheriff's detectives were following leads but had not made any arrests in the case by late Thursday afternoon.
- Source: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/164/story/515593.html>
32. *September 26, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (California) **Man pleads guilty in courthouse blast.** One of the three people accused in the detonation of a bomb at the federal courthouse in San Diego earlier this year pleaded guilty yesterday in Federal Court in Imperial County. The San Diego man admitted to using and carrying a destructive device — a pipe bomb — in connection with explosions at the courthouse and at a FedEx building in San Diego. His defense attorney said the defendant had changed his plea from not guilty “because he thought it was in his best interest to accept responsibility for his minimal role in this matter.”
- Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080926-9999-1m26bomb.html>
33. *September 26, Associated Press* – (California) **2 fires burn at Pendleton.** Firefighters are making progress against two spot fires burning at Camp Pendleton in northern San

Diego County. A base spokesman says one fire blackened several hundred acres of brush and grass in a training area. It is not yet contained, though it is moving toward canyons and away from structures. Another fire burned 200 acres near a station that is home to the 1st Marine Division. It is fully contained. No injuries or damages are reported.

Source: http://www.marinecorpstimes.com/news/2008/09/ap_pendletonfire_092608w/

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *September 26, KLTA 5 Los Angeles* – (California) **911 operator accused of leaking info to gang members.** An Orange County, California, sheriff's 911 operator was arraigned Thursday on charges of soliciting violent crime and providing confidential police information to gang members. The woman was also charged with gang enhancement, said a representative of the Orange County Sheriff's Department. She is alleged to have maintained ties with a white supremacist gang, but the representative could not confirm exactly what information she is accused of passing onto them.
Source: http://www.ktla.com/content/landing_page/?911-Operator-Accused-of-Leaking-Info-to-1&blockID=68627&feedID=171
35. *September 25, Salem News* – (Massachusetts) **Study investigation shuts down Hamilton ambulance service Lyons to serve town until further notice.** The Hamilton, Massachusetts, Police Department yesterday suspended its ambulance service after a state investigation revealed "serious deficiencies" in the medical training records of police officers. All Hamilton police officers are required to be state-certified as emergency medical technicians. The deficient records raise questions about whether the officers got paid for training they never took and, more importantly, had proper training to respond to medical calls.
Source:
http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local_story_269003958.html?keyword=topstory
36. *September 24, Athens Banner-Herald* – (National) **Study: campus alerts unreliable.** Emergency notification systems that send automated text messages and voice calls to cell phones are unreliable and slow in a crisis and even could interfere with 911 communications, according to a study by a Georgia Tech scientist. The University of Georgia and many other U.S. colleges and universities have adopted alert systems that deliver warnings through cell systems, especially after a 2007 mass shooting at Virginia Tech that left the shooter and 32 other people dead. But even in the best of conditions, cell phone-based systems are not able to meet a federal emergency alert goal to reach 85 percent of the population within 10 minutes, according to Georgia Tech's Information Security Center. At Georgia Tech last year, an alert system sent out text messages warning of a chemical spill, telling people to evacuate campus. Soon after, the system issued a second message saying to ignore the evacuation order - the spill was not as drastic as feared. Some on the Tech campus got the second message before they received the first one. And people call loved ones after they receive an automated warning - adding to call volume and generating a spike of cell-phone traffic potentially

large enough to overload a cell network and interfere with E-911 communications. In addition, text-messaging systems are vulnerable to fraud. A hacker could send out a false emergency alert, and the people who received the message would have no way to know it was fake.

Source: http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/092508/uga_336494829.shtml

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Information Technology

37. *September 25, Times Online* – (International) **Father of the internet: ‘web is running out of addresses’**. The world is about to run out of the internet addresses that allow computers to identify each other and communicate, the man who invented the system has told *The Times*. The “father of the internet” and one of the world’s leading computer scientists, said that businesses and consumers needed to act now to switch to the next generation of net addresses. Unless preparations were made now, he said, some computers might not be able to go online and the connectivity of the internet might be damaged. IP addresses are as crucial to websites as street addresses are for businesses but some network engineers predict that we will run out of them in two years. What is the solution? Every computer and online device is assigned a unique IP address, but the pool of unallocated numbers is about to dry up. When the internet system was founded in 1977, he set in place “internet protocol version four” (IPv4) which provided 4.2 billion addresses. With the number of internet-enabled devices, particularly mobile phones, soaring, less than 14 per cent of those addresses remain vacant. It is estimated that IPv4 addresses, each of which is a series of 32 binary digits, will run out in 2010 and possibly as early as next year. A new system, called IPv6, has been ready for implementation for more than a decade. Under IPv6, each address has 128 bits and so provides 340 trillion, trillion, trillion different addresses - that is 340,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. It is assumed that this will meet humanity’s needs for decades to come. The two protocol systems will run in tandem and IPv4 addresses will still work as normal. But if the IPv6 is not widely adopted, then those using it may find themselves unable to connect across the whole internet.

Source: http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/article4819803.ece

38. *September 25, Computerworld*– (National) **Hackers resurrect notorious attack tool kit**. Neosploit, the notorious hacker exploit kit that some thought had been retired months ago, has not only returned from the dead, but is responsible for a dramatic increase in attacks, a security researcher claimed today. “Neosploit’s back,” said the director of security research at Aladdin Knowledge Systems Inc. In July, researchers at RSA’s FraudAction Research Lab said that they had evidence that the creators of Neosploit were abandoning the business. For proof, RSA quoted a going-out-of-business message said to have originated with Neosploit’s authors. Neosploit, which first appeared in 2007, was a follow-on to the earlier MPack and a contemporary to another infamous exploit kit, WebAttacker. Those kits, including Neosploit, were used by cybercriminals to launch attack codes aimed at new vulnerabilities in Windows, Internet Explorer or third-party software such as Apple Inc.’s QuickTime. But Neosploit also

boasted features new to the click-to-attack business, including sophisticated statistical analysis and management tools.

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=Security&articleId=9115599&taxonomyId=17&pageNumber=1>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

39. *September 25, Orange County Register* – (California) **KFI/640 AM flips switch on much-debated tower.** A much-debated radio tower — on the same site where two previous towers crashed to the ground in the past four years — is standing tall and beaming a 50,000-watt signal throughout southern California as of Thursday evening. Officials at KFI/640 AM held a private ceremony to flip the switch and restore full power to a radio tower next to the I-5 freeway that reaches a potential audience of 11 million listeners. In 2004, a small plane crashed into a 760-foot-tall tower on approach to Fullerton Municipal Airport — less than two miles southeast of the tower. The La Mirada City Council eventually approved a plan to rebuild the tower on the original site at 654 feet tall. That approval came despite objections from the city of Fullerton, Fullerton Airport management, and a handful of pilots who said anything over 500 feet would again pose a serious safety risk to planes taking off and landing. La Mirada officials said they support having the tower in their city, because it would broadcast emergency information to millions of southern Californians after a natural disaster. Source: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/tower-officials-site-2169517-radio-mirada>
40. *September 24, BBC News* – (International) **Solar wind blows at 50-year low.** The solar wind — the stream of charged particles billowing away from the Sun — is at its weakest for 50 years. Scientists made the assessment after studying 18 years of data from the Ulysses satellite which has sampled the space environment all around our star. Scientists expect the weakened wind to have a wide range of impacts. The charged wind particles carry with them the Sun's magnetic field, and this has a protective role in limiting the number of high-energy cosmic rays that can enter the Solar System. More of them will probably now make their way through. The rays can damage satellite electronics, and if current solar wind conditions persist, engineers would have to take this into account when deciding how to “harden” their spacecraft. “Reduced solar activity also leads to the cooling of Earth's upper atmosphere and if Earth's upper atmosphere is cooler then there is less drag up there on satellites and this means we are left with much more debris up there,” said a professor from Boston University. Some researchers have attempted to link the intensity of cosmic rays at Earth to cloudiness and

climate change.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7632331.stm>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

41. *September 26, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **New Pearl Harbor museum scheduled for 2010.** A \$33 million contract has been awarded for the construction of a new visitor's center at the USS Arizona Memorial, which is getting nearly twice as many tourists as its facilities were designed to handle. Construction is expected to begin before the end of the year. The memorial is expected to remain open while the new visitor's center is being built, with completion expected by the 69th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack in December 2010. Current visitor buildings are built on land dredged from Pearl Harbor and have been gradually sinking, with portions of the center sagging by as much as 30 inches since the center opened in 1980.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap_travel/20080926/ap_tr_ge/travel_brief_pearl_harbor;_ylt=A_sGudJWoVBW6cao1mKtLND.s0NUE

42. *September 26, Associated Press* – (Montana) **Forest Service laments vandalism, expense.** Bitterroot National Forest officials say cleaning up after vandals consumes a disturbing amount of the fees collected at a recreation area near Darby, Montana. A forest spokeswoman said recent incidents at the Lake Como Recreation Area include a fire set in an outhouse last weekend. She said summer fee collections at Lake Como totaled about \$60,000. She says repairing vandalized facilities has cost nearly \$10,000 since last December.

Source:

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080926/NEWS01/80926007>

43. *September 26, Visalia Times-Delta* – (California) **Fire in Sequoia National Park may be contained by Tuesday.** A high-elevation blaze that has blackened more than 2,954 acres in the Sequoia National Park, California, should be contained by Tuesday, park officials said. The team fighting the blaze known as the Hidden Fire dropped from 720 firefighters last week to 145. An intensive program of controlling the fire line and back-burning has helped contain the northeast and the southern sides of the fire, a park spokesman said. But the acreage burned is expected to grow to 3,683. The fire is burning at 6,000-7,000 feet. The fire's boundary is mostly contained. Now officials are watching areas within the boundary for spot fires. No structures are threatened. The steep, rugged terrain has made the firefighting effort more difficult. The fire was started

by lightning September 10.

Source:

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080926/NEWS01/809260348>

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Dams Sector

44. *September 26, Idaho Statesman* – (Idaho) **Residents upset by Deer Flat Dam plans.**

Federal plans to protect a dam in Canyon County, Idaho, from the possibility of a terrorist attack or an explosive vehicle accident have stirred discontent among residents who say the effort is unnecessary. Solid waste trucks going to the landfill and school buses shuttling children make hundreds of trips across the dam each day, as well as commuters, farmers, farm workers, and residents. As part of an effort to reduce security risks at water and power facilities since 9/11, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation identified Deer Flat Dam, Anderson Ranch Dam upstream from Boise, and Palisades Dam east of Idaho Falls as being at significant risk. The department says it wants to prevent events like the intentional bombing in Oklahoma City in 1995 and the 2005 accidental explosion in French Canyon, Utah, where a truck with explosives overturned and created a 70-foot wide crater. However, Idaho lawmakers say they are not convinced the bureau can justify its decision. Before the end of the year, the bureau will buy movable barriers that would close off the road to traffic when there is a threat to the dam. Discussions also will begin on long-term security solutions, including raising the crest of the dam; widening the crest and relocating the road on the downstream side; building a new road separate from the dam; and closing the road across the dam.

Source: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/102/story/515617.html>

45. *September 25, WSHM 3 Springfield* – (Massachusetts) **Rain threat prompts flood concern in Hadley.** With all the rain coming, one town is reminded of their damaged water dike. Parts of Hadley, Massachusetts, could be under water if the Connecticut River forces it to break. An earthen dike separates Hadley from the Connecticut River. But recently, cracks have been found in the grassy dike. They were first reported June 1. Thursday, those cracks have grown deeper and more pronounced, threatening the town with flooding. If the barrier falls, it has the potential to make Hadley a part of the river. Hadley's ultimate goal is to build a new dike. First they need a permit to do that, and town officials will meet with the Department of Environmental Protection next month. Plans are still moving ahead to repair the cracks. That is scheduled for November and December.

Source: <http://www.cbs3springfield.com/news/local/29779544.html>

46. *September 25, Del Rio News-Herald* – (Texas) **IBWC official has 'absolute faith' in dam.** Amistad Dam is not in danger from the increased amount of water flowing into Amistad Reservoir, an International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) official said Wednesday. The IBWC acting area operations manager dispelled recurring rumors about the structure of Amistad Dam in an interview with the Del Rio News-Herald late Wednesday afternoon. He first addressed an email making the rounds on Del Rio

computers. The email purports to show photos of the Luis L. Leon Dam on the Rio Conchos in northern Chihuahua state in Mexico and warns that the Luis Leon Dam “is cracking with tons of water headed our way.” The official said none of the dams on the Rio Conchos, including the Luis Leon Dam, have failed. He also said he has “absolute faith” in the structure of Amistad Dam and explained that the loud “popping” sounds heard around the dam are bird cannons mounted on the structure to discourage vultures from roosting.

Source: <http://www.delrionewsherald.com/story.lasso?ewcd=bf65a0dcf2e89591>

47. *September 25, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Corps searching for seepage problem at 17th Street Canal.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin excavation work on the 17th Street Canal this morning to try to find the source of water that has been sporadically seeping up in spots along the canal levee in Lakeview. This is the second time since April the agency will be digging into the canal banks to locate the cause of the seepage. When they began the first dig in April, engineers with the Corps surmised that a small amount of water from the canal was probably seeping between the newer sheet piles that were driven 50 feet down into the canal bottom to close the breach. But the excavation instead revealed large amounts of debris, rip-rap, and rock, which engineers then theorized could be providing paths for seeping water to reach the surface. So workers dug down about 4 feet in two areas and removed the debris. They then repacked the excavation site with tons of good clay. Those wet spots disappeared, but to the Corps frustration, new ones gradually appeared several hundred feet to the south. The Corps’ top engineers have said repeatedly that the water does not pose a stability problem for the canal. That is because floodgates were built post-Katrina to insure that water is never allowed to rise in the canal above the “safe” elevation of six feet during tropical storms and hurricanes.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2008/09/corps_to_excavate_wet_spots_to.html

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